

**Washington, DC** - This morning, the House filed an amended version of H.R. 2764, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, also known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. The omnibus spending bill includes \$9.84 million in funding for the San Antonio River Authority.

The resources will fund SARA's San Antonio Channel Improvement Project, a local effort to restore the natural riverbank in the southern San Antonio channel. The project will specifically maintain current flood control protections, improve recreational and cultural opportunities, and aim to restore a natural and sustainable ecosystem along the riverbank. The legislation is expected to pass the House of Representatives this evening before going to the Senate for final consideration.

Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) and Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement applauding the legislation's investment in this crucial project.

"As San Antonio's representative on the House Appropriations Committee, securing funding to restore the southern San Antonio riverbank through the San Antonio channel improvement project is among my top priorities," said **Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez**. "We all know the impact of the San Antonio River on our local economy. That is why I was proud to work with Mayor Phil Hardberger, County Judge Nelson Wolff and the San Antonio congressional delegation in support of this river project and on the overall health and restoration of our waterways."

"These federal resources will pay vast economic and environmental dividends for years to come. The funding included in this legislation highlights our commitment to this project as well as the overall wellbeing of our environment and our waterways," said **Congressman Charlie Gonzalez**.

"I'm proud to have worked with our local and federal delegation to ensure these funds, which are of such great importance to our community, were included in this bill," he added.

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